

WEST DES MOINES PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS
Thursday June 25, 2015

The regular meeting of the West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission was called to order on Thursday, June 25, 2015 by Tamara Kenworthy at 5:32p.m.

Commission present: Brenda Sedlacek, Diane Boyd, TJ Lechtenberg, Tamara Kenworthy, Ryan Crane, Rita Luther. Staff present: Director of Parks and Recreation Gary Scott, Superintendent of Recreation Greg Hansen, Parks & Recreation Secretary Sonya Coobs

On Item 1. Approval of Agenda

Luther moved to approve the agenda. Sedlacek seconded. Motion carried.

On Item 2. Citizen Forum

On Item 3. Approval of Minutes- May 28, 2015 Commission meeting

Luther moved to approve the minutes as amended. Boyd seconded. Motion carried.

On Item 4. Old Business

On Item 5. New Business

A. Motion – Approval of Trail Gateway Public Art Statement

Scott spoke to Lynette Pohlman and asked for some guidance for the selection committee who was in the process of writing a Trail Gateway Public Art Statement. Pohlman suggested the committee come up with a statement that communicated to the artist what they wanted the intellectual content and emotional reaction to be. The selection committee then used different words for the intellectual content and emotional content selecting the best three words. The three words selected for intellectual were movement, community, connections and for emotion were joyful, inspired and proud.

Scott offered to work on the statement for the committee and then bring it back for their approval. Lechtenberg thought this was an accurate depiction with the brainstorming from the group. Luther felt the history of WDM was depicted by the words. Hammers would like to expand the horizons of the committee moving forward and to move past the history of WDM. Crane thought it had a great mix of words and is happy that it showed the connectivity between the people, neighborhoods and natural environment. Sedlacek thought it was important for the committee to have a statement for the artist. Boyd liked that it emphasized the importance of the attributes and that they were identified in the statement. Kenworthy thanked everyone for all the hard work.

Boyd made the motion to adopt the Trail Gateway Public Art Statement as written: “The citizens of West Des Moines cherish their trails. Growth of the trail system parallels the dynamic growth of the City West Des Moines. Trails encourage movement for health and vigor, enhance community well-being and create connections between people, neighborhoods, and the natural environment. The WDM Trail Gateway Artist Selection Committee wants the work of public art to tell this story and highlight the significant gateways to the trail system. We want these gateways to compel people to discover and use

the trails, and come away from the gateway art experience feeling joyful, inspired, and proud.” Sedlacek seconded. Motion carried. Scott gave an overview of the process for the selection committee and the Commission moving forward.

B. Motion- Recommendation to City Council – Public Art Consultant

Scott asked Pohlman for a list of consultants that she would recommend. Scott and Hansen chose only mid-western art consultants to interview. The three consultants were interviewed informally with some questions but the interview was more of a conversation. Staff recommended hiring Jack Becker of Forecast Public Art. Becker has a team of staff in his company to assist with the project. Staff thought he had had similar experiences working directly with local government and municipalities. Becker articulated that there would be more commitment to the project and had more flexibility in approaching the project. Hansen met and spoke with Becker at the conference in Chicago and was very impressed. Hansen felt Becker had great ideas, a wealth of knowledge, very open and should collaborate very nicely with the Commission. Hammers made the motion for the staff to enter into negotiations with Jack Becker -Forecast Public Art to serve as the consultant for the Trail Gateways Public Art project. Lechtenberg seconded. Motion carried.

C. Motion- Approval of Appointment- James Jordan Memorial Project

Loretta Sieman presented the James Jordan Memorial project last month to the Commission and would like one of the Commissioners to represent the Advisory Board on the project. Hammers volunteered for the project appointment. Boyd moved to appoint Hammers to the James Jordan Memorial Project as the Commission representative. Crane seconded. Motion carried.

D. Discussion- Americans for the Arts Public Art and Placemaking Pre-Conference

Each Commissioner gave a brief synopsis of the conference and programs they attended. Kenworthy would like to have the pictures that were taken at the conference brought to the next meeting. Lechtenberg mentioned how many other communities were not as fortunate as the Commission to have the funds and support from the City Council and citizens. Crane questioned whether or not the City Council was aware of the progress. The Commission would like to send a note to the City Council thanking them for their support and funding for the Public Arts Commission and projects.

On Item 6. Staff Reports

Superintendent of Recreation

Hansen discussed updates from the Bravo Grant application. The Commission has been awarded a grant for \$3500 for the Jeff Boshart project. The Boshart project will be in September but the locations of the class and the temporary art placements have not been determined. The program will be called C3-PA (Collaborative Construction Camp- Public Art), inviting 12-14 year olds to work with Boshart to construct a design out of balsa wood on site. Boshart will then construct a life size model out of iron that will be displayed in a public space in WDM. Students will be able to register for the “program” through the Parks and Recreation Fall brochure either online or over the phone with our staff. Scholarships are available through WDM Human Services. Staff will bring locations for the art piece to the Public Arts Advisory meeting and the Commission will have the opportunity to choose where the long-term temporary art piece will be placed.

Luther would like the council to know the progress the Public Arts commission is making and how the project is moving along. Scott said it would be appropriate for any of the Commission to call the

Council and talk with them. Kenworthy would like each Commissioner to pick a Councilmen and call them. Scott will scale down the points and progress of the Public Arts Commission and work with Kenworthy to develop a thank you note that the Commissioners can use when talking to the Councilmen over the phone. Luther will call Trevillyan.

Director of Parks and Recreation

During the interviewing process Scott spoke with the consultants about a “three concept three artists” process. Bringing three artists in will mean a meeting with the community which will be more engaging. Becker felt if the public were involved the Commission might have a better product. The idea of paying a little more up front could mean the artists would come and be more immersed in the project and create a better concept that more people would like. The selection committee will need to determine if they want to have it open ended for any artist or have an invitational process to find artist. Becker had stated the open concept will take a little longer but more artists would mean more ideas to choose from. With the open concept you might discover an artist but with the invitational you will know what to expect. With the invitational the consultant would be pre-qualifying the artist. Scott stated the decision will be up to the selection committee but Becker will lead the committee in any direction they choose. The Commission generally favored the “three concept, three artist” process and the invitational vs. the open process.

On Item 7. Other Matters

Lechtenberg visited the exhibit at the Iowa Historical Building and suggested the Commission go to see it as well. There was a guided tour and an overview of public art. He then had the pleasure of leading art instructors from the WDM Schools through the temporary art exhibit out around the City Campus and discussed the pieces and artists. Lechtenberg had two concerns: several of the name plaques are falling off of the art work and there isn't any information on the website regarding sale prices of the temporary art pieces. Hansen will check into the website. The teachers were very impressed.

Call to Artists will be out by the end of July. Submissions are due by the end of August and the *Art on the Campus* selection committee will meet and have decisions early in September.

Hammer requested another roster of commissioners and committees. Coobs will send it again to the Commissioners.

Kenworthy would like the Commission to participate in the Valley Junction Farmers Market, to get more awareness out and communicate with the citizens promoting the temporary art exhibit and the trail headways. Scott will contact Jim Miller and set a date. Hansen stated the Illumifest will be Sept 26, around the City Campus if the Commission would like to set up a table and tent at this event let him know.

Kenworthy would like the Community Service, Exhibition and Communication Committees to set up meetings and start work on a master calendar of events where the Public Arts Commission would be aware of opportunities coming up in the future and get more involved with the public.

Luther will contact the Des Moines Art Center and discuss borrowing a piece of art from the Pappajohn display downtown for a signature piece here on the city campus during the *Art on the Campus* temporary art exhibit.

Luther suggested that everyone go to the Des Moines Art Center to see the fabric exhibition.

On Item 8. Receive, File and/or Refer

A. WDM Trail Gateway Artist Selection Committee minutes from June 3, 2015

Crane moved to adjourn. Sedlacek seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya Coobs
Parks and Recreation Secretary

ATTEST:

Diane Boyd
Commission Secretary